GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
IMPROVED VARIETY OF CROPS
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed some improved crop varieties in pulses groundnuts, oil-seeds, rice and jute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the production is likely to increase in these crops; and

(d) the other research work undertaken for enhancement of agricultural production?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

(SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.456 FOR ANSWER ON 26.4.2000 BY BHIM DAHAL REGARDING IMPROVED VARIETY OF CROPS.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 22 Trombay varieties {(pulses-10, groundnut-8 & Mustard-2 and rice and Jute-1(one) each)} and they being

(c) grown in Maharashtra, Gujrat, Mahdya Pradesh, AndhraPradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. The details of crop, name of variety, year of release, maturity yield & yield increase, area and sources of seeds are given in the Annex.

(d) The details are as under :

(1) Plant Biotechnology : A protocol for the clonal propagation of elite banana varieties has been developed and the technology has been transferred to user organisations.

(2) Integrated Pest Management(IPM) : BARC has isolated a Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) strain which is highly effective as a biopesticide in controlling lepidopteran insert pest which has an adverse impact on crops. The commercial production of this biopesticide will be initiated by Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pune, pending registration by the Central Insecticide Board (CIB), Faridabad.

(3) Radiotracer studies are being carried out to find out impact of pesticide residues in agroecosystems and biological methods to remediate them from the soil. Radiolabelled fertilizers are used to find out fertilizer-use-efficiency for effective and optimum application of fertilizers.

(4) Induced mutant for green manure crops Sesbania restrata (popularly known as Dhaincha) capable if producing high biomass and organic nitrogen during rabi season has been developed.